

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Reply, claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-20 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 14 are cancelled herein, and claims 21-24 were previously cancelled. No new matter is believed to be included in the foregoing amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the claims contain allowable subject matter. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action dated 25 August 2008, to which this paper is responsive, a restriction requirement was applied between Group I, claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-20, and Group II, 5 and 14.

Applicants elect Group I, with traverse.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the ground that all of these claims had already been examined in the present application, and that only in clarifying the subject matter of claims 5 and 14 did the issue arise that these claims arguable constitute a separate invention, subject to restriction. Applicants respectfully submit that, having gone all the way through prosecution to the point of allowance, only to have a restriction requirement imposed at this late date is prejudicial to Applicants, at least in that this will require the Applicants to file a new divisional application and to pay separate issue and maintenance fees for a separate patent.

Furthermore, since one restriction requirement has already been imposed much earlier in the prosecution, maintenance of the present restriction requirement may require applicants to file two divisional applications. For this additional reason, imposition of the restriction requirement at this time is prejudicial to Applicants and is requested to be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 14 in response to the restriction requirement, but in case the Office should agree to reinstate these claims in response to Applicants' traversal, Applicants request the Office to reinstate these claims by Examiner's Amendment.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Office to reconsider and withdraw the imposition of the restriction requirement, and to reinstate claims 5 and 14 into the present application.

Applicants respectfully request notice of allowance for this application.

CONCLUSION

The claims remaining in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due for the submission of this paper. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 under Attorney Docket No. ATOTP0110US.

Respectfully submitted,

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